



V.J. ST. PIERRE, JR.  
PARISH PRESIDENT

MICHELLE J. HIGGINS  
DIRECTOR

# ST. CHARLES PARISH

## *RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM*

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**TO:** V.J. St. Pierre, Parish President

**FROM:** Michelle Higgins, Director of RSVP

**SUBJECT:** 2014 Annual Report

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of the River Parishes was approved for another 3 year grant award based on the competitive grant process. The new grant cycle started on April 1, 2014. The application indicated a strong volunteer need and presence in the River Parishes and success in reaching those targets set for the program. RSVP remains very active in St. Charles, St. John the Baptist and St. James Parishes. All of our volunteers are 55 and older and represent our vast diversity in abilities, ethnicities and socioeconomic levels in our communities. Volunteerism is a positive way to build relationships, promote a sense of community and foster good will.

In 2014 RSVP had over 700 volunteers enrolled in the program and over 77,000 hours of volunteer service have been recorded. Our RSVP volunteers make a huge difference in the lives they touch and to our community as a whole. RSVP is just another way this parish richens the fabric of life of the residents in our community.

Many of the usual activities occurred during the year. In the spring and summer the annual St. Charles Parish Volunteer Appreciation crawfish boil was well attended as well as the annual RSVP Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. RSVP members from all three parishes attended the luncheon and participants received a certificate and gift as a sign of appreciation for all that they do for the community. The various monthly casino trips were all held as well. RSVP hosted the annual Veteran's Day luncheon as well as assisted with the annual Senior Citizen Christmas luncheon. An Emergency Preparedness Information meeting was held for the seniors of the parish. Administration staff from the parish, as well as Red Cross and Emergency Operations was on hand to talk to residents regarding the importance of being ready in case of emergency situations, especially hurricanes. This year's annual St. Charles Toy and Gift Fund event was a huge success and over 1,000 children of the parish were served. Throughout the year RSVP was present and ready to help out at various parish wide events such as: Relay for Life, Battle for the Paddle,

**Alligator Festival, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration, Paint the Parish Pink as well as the Destrehan Plantation Festival to name a few.**

**On the administrative side, programmatic procedures were reviewed, some revised to align with federal guidance and regulations. All volunteer stations were visited and station supervisors were provided updated information including forms. Accurate reporting as well as compliant program administration continues to be a priority.**

**I thank you Mr. St. Pierre and the St. Charles Parish Council for always supporting the RSVP program and the many wonderful senior citizens of our great parish.**